

Forest Service, USDA

§ 295.5

295.5 Monitoring effects of vehicle use off forest development roads.

295.6 Revision of off-road vehicle management plans.

AUTHORITY: 30 Stat. 35, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551); 50 Stat. 525, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1011); E.O. 11644, 11989 (42 FR 26959).

SOURCE: 43 FR 20006, May 10, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

§ 295.1 Applicability.

The regulations in the following parts pertain to administrative designation and location of specific areas and trails of National Forest System lands on which the use of vehicles traveling off National Forest development roads is allowed, restricted or prohibited. Prohibitions regarding use of vehicles off roads is provided in 36 CFR part 261.

§ 295.2 Planning and designation for use of vehicles off forest development roads.

(a) On National Forest System lands, the continuing land management planning process will be used to allow, restrict, or prohibit use by specific vehicle types off roads. This process will include coordination with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies. The planning process will analyze and evaluate current and potential impacts arising from operation of specific vehicle types on soil, water, vegetation, fish and wildlife, forest visitors and cultural and historic resources. If the analysis indicates that the use of one or more vehicle types off roads will cause considerable adverse effects on the resources or other forest visitors, use of the affected areas and trails by the vehicle type or types likely to cause such adverse effects will be restricted or prohibited until such time as the adverse effects can be eliminated as provided in 36 CFR part 261.

(b) Off-road vehicle management plans shall provide vehicle management direction aimed at resource protection, public safety of all users, minimizing conflicts among users, and provide for diverse use and benefits of the National Forests. Designation of areas and trails shall be in accordance with the following:

(1) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed,

vegetation, or other resources of the public lands.

(2) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats.

(3) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.

(4) Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated Wilderness Areas or Primitive Areas.

However, this does not preclude the use of any fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle for emergency purposes, or the use of any combat or combat support vehicle for national defense purposes, or registered motorboats, or vehicle use expressly authorized by the Chief, Forest Service, under a permit, lease, license, or contract.

§ 295.3 Public participation.

The public shall be provided an opportunity to participate in the process of allowing, restricting, or prohibiting use of areas and trails to one or more specific vehicle types off forest development roads. Sixty days advance notice will be given to allow for public review of proposed or revised designations. In emergency situations, temporary designations up to one year in length may be made or revised without public participation if needed to protect the resources and/or to provide for public safety.

§ 295.4 Public information.

In addition to the requirements of 36 CFR 261.51, information and maps will be published and made available to the public, describing:

- (a) The regulation of vehicular use.
- (b) Time periods when use is allowed, restricted or prohibited.
- (c) The type of vehicle regulated.

§ 295.5 Monitoring effects of vehicle use off forest development roads.

The effects of use by specific types of vehicles off roads on National Forest System lands will be monitored. If the